

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T ROME 8720

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E.O. 11652: GDS DECEMBER 31, 1974

TAGS: NATO, OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD M.)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO BRUSSELS: BILATERAL MEETINGS

FOR S/S MR. SPRINGSTEEN

REF: SPRINGSTEEN/BEAUDRY TELECONS; ROME 8648

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 3:50 PM LOCAL TIME PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER PETRIGNANI INFORMED DCM THAT ITALIANS NEEDED TO KNOW WHETHER APPOINTMENT IN BRUSSELS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON COULD BE SET UP FOR 08:30 JUNE 26, DCM EXPLAINED IT WAS ONLY TEN O'CLOCK WASHINGTON TIME AND THAT WE HAD NO INFORMATION BUT WOULD SEE WHAT WE COULD DO TO FIND OUT WASHINGTON'S DECISION. PETRIGNANI CALLED BACK AGAIN AT 4:10 PM LOCAL AND SAID HE HAD TALKED TO RUMOR WHO NEEDED OUR ANSWER BY 4:45 PM LOCAL. PETRIGNANI STATED THAT IF 08:30 TIME WAS NOT POSSIBLE RUMOR CONSIDERED HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SO IMPORTANT THAT HE COULD ACCEPT 5:00 PM JUNE 26 EVEN THOUGH THIS WOULD CAUSE GREAT DIFFICULTIES AND REQUIRE STEPS TO CHANGE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 26. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS CHANGE ACTION MUST BEGIN BY 5:00 PM LOCAL TIME TODAY.

2. WITHIN 15 MINUTES ABOVE TELECONS TOOK PLACE AND DCM INFORMED PETRIGNANI ON BASIS THESE TALKS THAT RUMOR SHOULD PLAN TO MEET PRESIDENT 5:00 PM REPEAT 5 PM JUNE 26. PETRIGNANI WAS DISAPPOINTED BUT SAID HE WOULD TALK TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS NOW INFORMED ME THAT THE PRIME MINISTER

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IS MOST PLEASED TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT AT 5:00 PM IN

BRUSSELS ON WEDNESDAY.

3. THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
STABILIZATION PROGRAM WILL PUT BACK UNTIL THURSDAY. PETRIGNANI
SAID THAT EARLIER TODAY THE GOVERNMENT HAD PUT OUT FEELERS WITHIN
PARLIAMENT TO SEE IF A DELAY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. THIS ACTION
HAD CAUSED SPECULATION THAT THE COHESION OF THE COALITION WAS
BREAKING AND THAT THE DELAY WAS DUE TO DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE
GOVERNMENT. IN ORDER TO SCOTCH SUCH RUMORS
RUMOR WILL LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE DELAY WILL BE DUE
TO THE FACT OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AT BRUSSELS
ON EVENING OF WEDNESDAY. VOLPE

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